



Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury
Washington, DC 20224
www.irs.gov

SMALL BUSINESS/SELF-EMPLOYED DIVISION

Dear Community Leaders:

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reorganized into a more customer-focused structure to better meet the needs of taxpayers. To help us accomplish our goal of becoming a top quality service organization, we believe that developing mutually beneficial relationships with organizations such as yours is vital to our success in delivering key messages and information to taxpayers. We are reaching out to members of religious and civic organizations and ask that you distribute the enclosed materials to your members.

On Wednesday, January 23, 2002, the IRS Commissioner, Charles Rossotti met with the leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to discuss actions to be taken by the Internal Revenue Service on several fronts to combat the recent upsurge of slavery reparation claims. In 2001, the agency received nearly 80,000 returns claiming more than \$2.7 billion in false reparation refunds. The IRS will notify the taxpayer that the claim has no basis in law and provide them an opportunity to amend the return. Any returns filed after April 15th, 2002 could be subject to penalties. Therefore, we are urging you to share this information with your community.

A variety of material is enclosed that explains this important tax issue and includes guidance for your members to use in educating themselves, their families, and their communities. These items may also be found on our official website at <http://www.irs.gov/news.html> and include the following:

- [News Release IR-2002-08 - Slavery Reparation Scams Surge, IRS Urges Taxpayers Not To File False Claims](#) (Requires Acrobat Reader)
- [Fact Sheet FS-2002-008 - Reparations Scams Carry A Price](#) (Requires Acrobat Reader)
- [Frequently Asked Question and Answers](#)

Please encourage your organization to distribute the enclosed materials to all individuals who may be affected by promoters of this scam. If you need further assistance, please contact your local Taxpayer Education Communications office. The number is available in IRS Publication 3698A "Small Business/Self-Employed Taxpayer and Communication at a Glance."

Sincerely,

Jerry Songy, Director
Taxpayer Education and Communication

Enclosures (4)